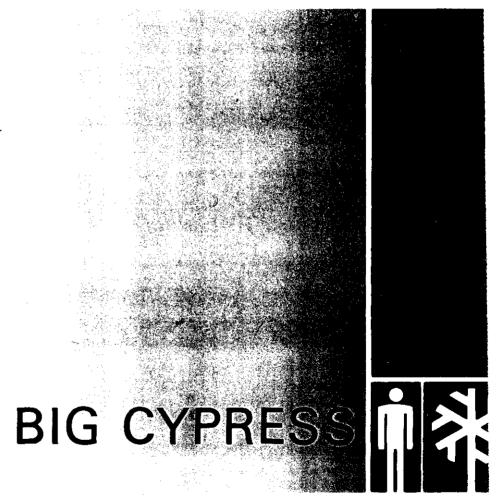
## wilderness study august 1979



NATIONAL PRESERVE - FLORIDA

## FINDINGS

(Preliminary - Subject to Change)

NONE OF THE LANDS WITHIN BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE WERE FOUND TO BE SUITABLE FOR WILDERNESS AT THE PRESENT TIME. THE RIGHT OF PRIVATE PARTIES TO CONTINUE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION AND EXTRACTION IS LEGISLATIVELY PERMITTED AS LONG AS IT DOES NOT JEOPARDIZE THE NATURAL VALUES THAT ARE TO BE PRESERVED IN THE AREA. PRIVATE INHOLDINGS AND CONTINUED USE AND OCCUPANCY OF PRESERVE LANDS BY SEMINOLE AND MICCOSUKEE INDIANS ARE ALSO LEGISLATIVELY AUTHORIZED TO CONTINUE. USE OF OFF-ROAD VEHICLES IS PERMITTED IN SUBSTANTIAL PORTIONS OF THE PRESERVE.

BECAUSE OF THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE AND THE LEGISLATIVE MANDATE TO PROTECT IT, A REASSESSMENT OF WILDERNESS SUITABILITY WILL BE UNDERTAKEN IN ABOUT FIVE YEARS.

